

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), the 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group represented by R_{11} and R_{12} is a hydrocarbon ring group.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), the 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group represented by R_{11} and R_{12} is an aromatic hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), one of R_{11} and R_{12} is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group.

Claim 5 (Original)

The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5- or 6-membered non-aromatic ring group.

Claim 6 (Original)

The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), R_{13} is a tertiary alkyl group.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), R_{14} is a primary alkyl group.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented)

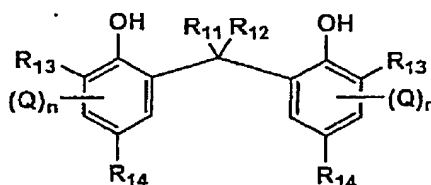
The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), one of R_{11} and R_{12} is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, R_{13} is t-butyl or 1-methylcyclohexyl, and R_{14} is methyl or 2-hydroxyethyl.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended)

A silver salt photothermographic material comprising on a support a light-sensitive layer comprising a light-sensitive emulsion containing light-insensitive organic silver salt grains of an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 10 to 30 carbon atoms and light-sensitive silver halide grains, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, wherein the reducing agent for silver ions is a compound represented by the following formula (1) and the light-sensitive layer further comprises a hindered phenol which is a compound represented by the following formula (3), and wherein a molar ratio of the compound represented by formula (3) to the compound represented by formula (1) is 0.001 to 0.2:

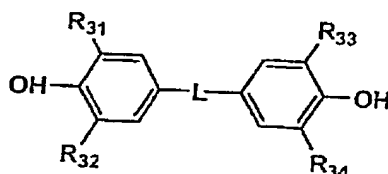
formula (1)



wherein R₁₁ and R₁₂ are each a hydrogen atom, a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group, provided that R₁₁ and R₁₂ are not hydrogen atoms at the same time; R₁₃ and R₁₄ are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkenyl

group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; Q is a group capable of being substituted on a benzene ring; n is 0, 1 or 2;

formula (3)



wherein R₃₁, R₃₂, R₃₃ and R₃₄ are each an alkyl or cycloalkyl group; L is -S- or -CHR₃₅, in which R₃₅ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or cycloalkyl group.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein at least one of R₃₁, R₃₂, R₃₃ and R₃₄ is a group selected from the group consisting of iso-propyl, iso-nonyl, t-butyl, t-amyl, t-octyl, cyclohexyl, 1-methyl-cyclohexyl and adamantly.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein R₃₅ is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 18 (Canceled)